Kathmandu University’s Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute

**Course Description**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>TLAN 204 MC 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Colloquial Tibetan IV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester, Year</td>
<td>Spring 2024</td>
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<td>Credits:</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>
| Schedule:         | Master class 2: Monday and Wednesday 7:45pm – 8:45pm NPT (Online)  
|                   | ALI (Assisted Language Instructors) classes:  
|                   |   - ALI 3: Tues and Thursday 7:00am - 8:00am NPT (Online)  
|                   |   - ALI 4: Tues and Thursday 7:45pm - 8:45pm NPT (Online)  
|                   | Boost classes:  
|                   |   - Boost Class 2: Mon 7:00am - 8:00am NPT (Online)  
|                   |   - Boost Class 3: Mon 6:15pm - 7:15pm NPT (Online)  
| Required text(s)  | Rangjung Yeshe Intermediate Colloquial Tibetan Textbook (Same as the Fall Semester) |
| Optional Readings | --Tibetan Textbook bod skad slob deb Vol.3 by Franziska Oertle.  
|                   | --lha sa'i kha skad sbyong deb (bod ljongs mi dmangs dpe skrun khang)  
|                   | --zhe sa'i lag deb blo gsar dga’ ston: Tibetan Honorific Speeches (bod ljongs mi dmangs dpe skrun khang)  
| Prerequisites:    | TLAN 203. This course is a continuation of TLAN 203 from Fall 2023 semester. |

**Course Description**

This course builds on the skills acquired in the first three semesters of Tibetan language study. It focuses on continuing to develop various linguistic abilities connected to colloquial Tibetan such as conversation, listening comprehension, reading skills, and use of grammar. These aims are realized
by means of different instruction sessions using a variety of materials and methods. Given the current online format of the course, classes will be run in order to be as accessible and manageable as possible, while still retaining the core elements of our traditional class to facilitate effective learning and engagement in the language.

The student’s learning process is facilitated by means of three types of classes: classroom classes (with a native-speaker teacher and an English-speaking teacher), boost sessions, and assistant language instructor classes. These are interrelated and the material provided, introduced, and practiced is precisely coordinated. A considerable amount of preparation, memorization, and completion of written assignments is expected from the student in order to ensure the student’s progress.

The aim of the master classes is to introduce grammar topics found in the Rangjung Yeshe Intermediate Colloquial Tibetan Textbook to address the students’ questions and to discuss grammatical principles. Furthermore, these classes provide a forum for reading dialogues aloud, an exercise that improves listening comprehension, pronunciation, and fluency. Different activities and exercises will be implemented as much as possible in class with due consideration given the online environment, the capabilities of students to participate and instructors to likewise effectively facilitate such activities.

The course begins with lesson 31, the first lesson, from the Rangjung Yeshe Intermediate Colloquial Tibetan Textbook and covers the rest of the lessons in the book. The online master class is divided into two main aspects: 1) a pre-recorded instructional lecture on the current lesson, to prepare students for engaging the material and 2) a live session to implement exercises and Q&A sessions between students and the instructors. Students may watch the pre-recorded videos on their own time (as long as it is before the upcoming live class), but are expected to join and actively participate in the live class as much as possible (attendance is taken during these live classes as part of meeting Kathmandu University’s class attendance requirement of 80%).

The second type of class is the online ALI conversation class where the student has the opportunity for one-on-one conversations with a native speaker. In addition to having conversations about various topics of the student’s choice, coordinated handouts are provided in order to encourage the student to practice structures recently introduced and discussed in class. In these handouts, example sentences illustrate the various usages and combinations of this complex language and facilitate the growth of vocabulary. Students are encouraged to use as much Tibetan and as little English (or otherwise) as possible during these sessions in order to fully take advantage of these opportunities to actively apply listening and speaking ability in the target language of the course. Please note that attendance will be recorded for your ALI classes as well.

The third type of class is the Boost class. It is similar to the ALI class, but is conducted in a group, not individually. By means of interactive exercises with the native speakers the studied grammar will be put into active use.